

In the Claims:

1 - 53. (Cancelled).

54. (Currently Amended) A device for insertion in a human or animal body or body cavity, said device having an inflatable and expandable means containing a solution comprising at least one component ~~that releases~~ capable of releasing at least one low molecular antimicrobial compound (LMAC) upon acidification.

wherein said LMAC having has a molecular weight equal to or less than 250U and is capable of permeating into the adjacent tissue in said body or body cavity ~~and said at least one component releases said LMAC upon acidification~~.

55. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 54, wherein the LMAC is released when said at least one component is contacted with a second component.

56. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 55, wherein said at least one component is inorganic nitrite.

57. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 55, wherein said second component is ascorbic acid or acetic acid.

58. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 55, wherein a least one component is inorganic nitrite and second component is ascorbic acid or acetic acid.

59. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 55, wherein said contact is accomplished through the introduction of a liquid to said means and said liquid being selected from the group consisting of water, saline or any physiological buffer.

60. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 54, wherein said device is a catheter for insertion into the urinary tract of said human or animal body and said inflatable and expandable means comprise an inflatable cuff.

61. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 60, wherein said cuff when inserted into the urinary tract is situated in the urinary bladder.

62. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 54, where said device is an intratracheal tube.

63. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 54, wherein said device is a gastric tube.

64. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 54, wherein said LMAC is a reactive nitrogen intermediate, a reactive oxygen intermediate or a combination of these two.

65. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 54, wherein the LMAC is selected from the group consisting of nitric oxide (NO), NO₂, N₂O₃, N₂O₄, HNO₃, HNO₂, NO⁺, NO⁻, O²⁻, O₃, singlet oxygen, H₂O₂, OONO⁻, HOONO, NOCl, NOSCN, NO thiocyanate, an OH radical and HOCl.

66. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 54, wherein said LMAC is in a gaseous state at body temperature.

67. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 54, having a concentration of one or more metal ions in the contents of the inflatable and expandable means or in the material or on the surface of said device, said concentration being sufficient to increase the antimicrobial effect.

68. (Withdrawn) a device for insertion in a human or animal body or a body cavity, said device having an inflatable and expandable means, wherein said inflatable and expandable means is impermeable to water and contains inorganic nitrite and an acid.

69. (Withdrawn) A device of claim 68, wherein said inflatable and expandable means contain sodium nitrite and ascorbic acid.

70. (Withdrawn) A device of claim 68, wherein said device is a catheter.

71. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A device for insertion in a human or animal body or a body cavity, said device having inflatable and expendable means containing a solution comprising inorganic nitrite and an acid,

wherein said solution produces at least one low molecular antimicrobial compound (LMAC); which has a molecular weight equal to or less than 250U and an antimicrobial effect outside of the device.

72. (Withdrawn) device of claim 71, wherein said inflatable and expendable means contains sodium nitrite and ascorbic acid.

73. (Withdrawn) A device of claim 71, wherein said device is a catheter.

74. (Withdrawn) A device of claim 71, wherein said LMAC has an antimicrobial effect on the outer surface of the device.

75. (Withdrawn) A device of claim 71, wherein said solution is of pH 2–4.

76. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A device for insertion in a human or animal body or a body cavity, said device having an inflatable and expandable means,

wherein said inflatable and expandable means comprises at least one component ~~capable of releasing that releases~~ at least one low molecular antimicrobial compound (LMAC) upon acidification capable of permeating into the adjacent tissue ~~in said body or~~ body cavity, and said at least one component releases said LMAC at a concentration of at least about 10000 parts per billion within about 10 minutes of the acidification as measured by rapid–response chemiluminescence analysis of the headspace of a closed flask containing said device, and

wherein said flask is flushed with NO–free air via an inlet at a rate of 4.5 L/min, wherein the LMAC has a molecular weight equal to or less than 250U.

77. (Withdrawn) A device of claim 76, wherein said inflatable and expandable means contains sodium nitrite and ascorbic acid.

78. (Withdrawn) A device of claim 76, wherein said device is a catheter.

79 - 94. (Cancelled)

95. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 54, wherein said device is a vascular catheter.

96. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 54, wherein said device is a vascular catheter port.

97. (Previously presented) The device of claim 54, where said device is a wound drain tube.

98 - 100. (Cancelled)

101. (Currently Amended) A medical device for insertion into a human or animal body or body cavity comprising:

a first end ~~adapted to connect~~ that connects to a fluid collection device;

a second end ~~adapted to insert~~ that inserts into a human or animal body or body cavity;

an inflatable and expandable cuff surrounding the second end;

at least one component retained within the cuff, the at least one component ~~capable of releasing~~ releases at least one low molecular antimicrobial compound (LMAC) upon acidification;

wherein [[.]] the LMAC has a molecular weight equal to or less than 250U and is capable of permeating the cuff to ~~the adjacent tissue~~ in said body or body cavity and exerting an antimicrobial effect.